

PRESS  
RELEASE



The New York City Department of Correction

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

CONTACT: Robin Campbell, [robin.campbell@doc.nyc.gov](mailto:robin.campbell@doc.nyc.gov) (718) 546-0635

September 15, 2014

**PONTE NAMES VETERAN JOURNALIST PETER THORNE  
DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC INFORMATION**

East Elmhurst, NY – New York City Department of Correction Commissioner Joseph Ponte today announced the appointment of veteran journalist Peter Thorne to the position of Deputy Commissioner of Public Information. Thorne will begin his new duties immediately.

“Peter’s award-winning two decades in broadcast journalism and his prior work in government as Director of Communications for the New York City Comptroller’s Office will be a strong addition to this Department,” Commissioner Ponte said. “I am delighted that this veteran journalist is joining our organization.”

“I very much look forward to this opportunity to continue serving the City of New York and assisting Commissioner Ponte as he communicates his message of meaningful reform,” Thorne said. “Commissioner Ponte has made it clear that he does not shy away from tough challenges and his reputation speaks for itself.”

Before he joined Commissioner Ponte’s office, Peter Thorne was Director of Communications for the New York City Comptroller. Prior to that Thorne served as an anchor and reporter for 10 years with New York City’s WPIX TV. In one of his first assignments for the station he reported from Lower Manhattan on the aftermath of the September 11th terror attacks. He is the recipient of three Emmy awards for Best Government Reporting, Best Hard News Reporting, and Journalistic Enterprise, in addition to multiple honors from the Associated Press and the New York State Broadcasters Association. Prior to WPIX, Thorne was a news anchor and reporter at KCOP TV in Los Angeles, and a national correspondent for Court TV. He is a graduate of Yale University.

As Deputy Commissioner for Communications and Public Information, Thorne will report directly to DOC Commissioner Ponte.

[About the New York City Department of Correction](#)

The New York City Department of Correction (DOC) is the jail system for New York City. It operates Rikers Island, which houses 10 individual facilities, four borough-based jails and two hospital prison wards, as well as court pens in all five boroughs. In FY 2013, DOC had 81,758 admissions involving 58,814 individuals. Its Average Daily Population is approximately 11,500, nearly 80 percent of whom are housed on Rikers Island. Most of the inmates in DOC custody are being detained pending the resolution of charges against them; approximately 15 percent are city-sentenced inmates who are serving sentences of one year or less.

###